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IN WASHINGTON...

Copyright Crisis in Aden

The British should postpone their departure from Aden because of the threat posed by President Nasser, a special study mission of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs recommended last week.

The report was submitted by Representatives Edward R. Roybal (D-Calif.), Chairman, E. Ross Adair (R-Ind.), J. Irving Whalley (R-Pa.), E. Y. Berry (R-S.Dak.), and Committee Staff Consultant Melvin O. Benson.

The four Congressmen called on the United States and Britain to "examine carefully just how useful the [Aden] base is to the allied cause. . . . The question is what must be done to keep Nasser through his control over Republican Yemen from extending his influence on the 1,400-mile-long Arabian Peninsula.

"The members of the study mission feel that because of the unsettled conditions which would be aggravated by the departure of the British from Aden, it would be desirable for Britain to remain there—not indefinitely—but for a period beyond the present deadline."

[The *Washington Evening Star*, on Mar. 27, expressed a similar view, declaring that terrorism in Aden was a "bleak prospect." It asked: "Should not the British reconsider their decision to withdraw?"

On Mar. 25, the *Washington Post* reported that the State Department is inclined to let the UN handle the Aden conflict. Said the *Post*: "This is an appropriate inclination. Aden is a good place for the United States to stay out of."]

The Congressmen noted that the "dominant ambitions of the current Egyptian leadership are aggressively opposed to the primary interests of the United States.

"On almost every current issue, Nasser's Egypt maintains a position in regard to the Arab world and the rest of Africa that is practically identical to Castro's Cuba vis-à-vis the Latin American peoples and the Western hemisphere.

"In both cases, aid and comfort to national Communism are freely given."

Among Nasser's moves, the study lists the invitation last year to the Viet Cong to establish representation in Cairo; frequent denunciations of U.S. policies and condemnation of the U.S. war effort in Viet Nam; the reception of Communist leaders with "open arms."

[Tight-lipped Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko paid a surprise three-day visit to Cairo and had two meetings with President Nasser. The Aden crisis was on their agenda.

The joint communique stated that the two countries hold "identical views" on major problems, and support "peoples fighting for their national liberation."]

No More Subsidy

After many years—and undisclosed sums—the United States will end its subsidy to the American Friends of the Middle East (AFME), as well as to other private voluntary organizations which have been secretly financed by the CIA.

Many protests were directed to the Administration against these past practices. Last week a special White House committee recommended their termination.

In a letter to Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Assistant Secretary of State Dixon Donnelly wrote, on Mar. 31:

"The President has just directed that no Federal agency shall provide any covert financial assistance, direct or indirect, to American private voluntary organizations and that any such support that has been provided shall be terminated as quickly as possible.

"In this, he was acting on the recommendations of the review committee he had appointed to examine relationships between the CIA and private organizations."

Rabbi Bernstein had questioned "the wisdom of any secret subsidies to American organizations which are engaged in public action or propaganda on the American scene." And, he said, there is "no better example of the unwisdom of this practice than the grants to AFME."

✓ Rabbi Bernstein said that AFME had "disseminated anti-Israel and anti-Zionist views," had "slandered a large segment of the American people," and had been "a major supporter of the Organization of Arab Students which abuses the hospitality of the United

States by prosecuting a propaganda campaign in support for Israel on more than 100 campuses throughout the country."

Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) asked the President to "bring an immediate halt" to AFME's CIA grants, to issue a public report on the amount of money AFME has received and to investigate the tax exempt status of the foundations which provided the funds.

Scott "strenuously" objected to the government's funding of an organization whose objective is "to generate anti-Israel propaganda in the United States and to conduct other activities that run counter to the stated objectives of American foreign policy."

[Arab press reaction was hostile to AFME. *Al Anwar* in Lebanon declared that AFME had tried to sell American policy to the Arabs "instead of persuading the American people of the justice of the Arab cause in Palestine." In Iraq, *Al Thawra* accused AFME of espionage and promoting "hatred and dissension" while Syria's *Al Bath* claimed that AFME had secret members who "had infiltrated" many Arab states.]

Censorship

On another front the USIA has acknowledged charges by Sen. Scott that the USIS library in Damascus defers to Syrian censorship. The USIA disclosed that it does submit magazines to Syrian censors before they are placed in the USIS library and that they do not put on the shelves books which contain "objectionable material of the type which might result in mutilation and destruction."

Scott charged that the library had inked out references to Israel, defenses of the U.S. position in Viet Nam, and criticism of Russia and Red China.

The USIA denied that U.S. officials had ever marked, mutilated or pasted over books or periodicals. If any of the material had been censored or mutilated, the USIA believes it was done by library users.

Richard M. Schmidt, Jr., USIA General Counsel, agreed that "this is not an ideal situation," but he contended that "the return from this operation is worth the resources invested."

A Gate is Opened

For the first time since 1947, a group of 40 American Jews will visit Jewish Holy Places in Jordan (Rachel's Tomb, Abraham's Tomb and the Wall-

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